Message Text

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CONFIDENTIAL MOSCOW 5992

STATE FOR EUR/SOV

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E. O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, UR

SUBJ: ROSTROPOVICH LEAVING USSR FOR TWO YEARS

- 1. EMBOFF LEARNED FROM CELLIST MSTISLAV ROSTROPOVICH APRIL 22 THAT TWO DAYS EARLIER HE HAD RECEIVED FROM GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV THROUGH MINISTER OF CULTURE FURTSEVA PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE USSR FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS ALONG WITH HIS WIFE, SINGER GALINA VISHNEVSKAYA, AND TWO DAUGHTERS. FYI: SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY HAD RAISED MATTER EARLIER IN DAY WITH BREZHNEV AT REQUEST OF LEONARD BERNSTEIN. BREZHNEV TOLD KENNEDY HE WOULD LOOK INTO MATTER AND HAVE ANSWER BY TIME OF SENATOR'S DEPARTURE FROM USSR ON APRIL 25. END FYI.
- 2. ROSTROPOVICH AND FAMILY INTEND SPEND NEXT TWO YEARS LIVING IN WESTERN EUROPE AND US, STUDYING AND GIVING CONCERTS. ROSTROPOVICH HIMSELF INTENDS DEPART USSR END OF MAY 1974 AND REST OF FAMILY WILL FOLLOW END JULY.
- 3. FAMILY INTENDS MAINTAIN SOVIET CITIZENSHIP. IN TELECON WITH EMBOFF ROSTROPOVICH WAS LAVISH IN HIS PRAISE OF BREZHNEV'S CONFIDENTIAL

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EFFORTS ON HIS BEHALF AND, ALTHOUGH GRATEFUL FOR KENNEDY

INTERVENTION (EVEN AFTER THE FACT), HE BEGGED MATTER NOT BE
MADE INTO A SENSATION. HE EMPHATICALLY REQUESTED "AS LITTLE
NOISE AS POSSIBLE" BE MADE OVER HIS DEPARTURE.
STOESSEL

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